

MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
.....

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE
YEAR 1948.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1948.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you
my report for the year 1948.

A report from the Sanitary Inspector
is also included.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. GOVERNOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

(i) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - S. Governor, M.B., B.Ch.

Sanitary Inspector - R.C.L. Williams, B.E.M. (Mil)..
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(ii) General Statistics.

Area in Acres	19,777
Population (Registrar-General's estimate for 1948)	13,150
Number of inhabited houses	3,795
Rateable Value	£48,232
Amount represented by 1d rate (Revised estimate 1948/49.)	£192.1.6d.

The estimated population shows an increase of
230 on the 1947 figure.

(iii) Vital Statistics.

Table I - Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	101	84	185
Illegitimate	4	9	13
	<u>105</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>198</u>

The birth rate is 15.05 per 1,000 population and
it compares favourably with the birth rate for
England and Wales which is 17.9. It also shows a
decrease on the previous year when the birth rate
in the district was 21 compared with 20.5 for
England and Wales.

Table II - Still-Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

The rate for still-births is 0.23 per 1,000 compared with 0.42 for England and Wales.

Table III - Infantile Mortality.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>

The infantile mortality rate is 30.3 per 1,000 live births compared with 34 for England and Wales. This is a considerable decrease on the figure for 1947 when the rate for the district was 36.7 compared with 41 for England and Wales.

The causes of infantile death were as follows:-

Premature birth	1
Inanition	1
Meningitis	1
Lobar Pneumonia	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	1
Bronchiolitis	<u>1</u>
	<u>6</u>

There were no deaths during the year from infantile diarrhoea (under 2 years).

Table IV - Deaths in the Area and Causes.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
T.B. of Respiratory system . . .	2	-	2
Syphilitic diseases	1	-	1
Cancer	13	14	27
Intra-cranial vascular lesions . .	9	11	20
Heart disease	27	24	51
Other diseases of circulatory system .	1	6	7
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Other respiratory diseases . . .	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum . . .	2	-	2
Appendicitis	-	1	1
Other digestive diseases	2	2	4
Nephritis	2	2	4
Maternal causes	-	1	1
Premature births	1	-	1
Congenital malformations, etc. . .	2	-	2
Violent causes	3	-	3
All other causes	6	10	16
	<u>75</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>150</u>

The death rate in March this year is 11.4 per 1,000 population compared with 10.8. for England and Wales. Last year's figures were 10.2 compared with 12 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the percentages of deaths in the principal age groups.

Under 1 year	4.0
1 - 5 years	.75
6 - 15 years	1.5
16 - 65 years	38.62
66 and over	<u>55.13</u>
	<u>100.00%</u>

(iv) Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Notified:-

Diphtheria	2
Erysipelas	1
Measles	28
Scarlet Fever	2
Whooping Cough	1
Lobar Pneumonia	2
T.B. - Pulmonary.	3
T.B. - Non-Pulmonary	1
	<u>40</u>

The two Diphtheria cases were transferred to Wisbech Isolation Hospital.

The two Scarlet Fever cases were nursed at home.

Outbreak of Typhoid Fever.

On the 15th July notification was received that a patient admitted to hospital was suffering from typhoid fever. A further case was reported on the 29th July. In view of the fact that the milk supply was the same in both cases all persons employed at the dairy was interviewed and specimens of faeces and urine taken. As a result one of the dairy workers was found to be a 'carrier' and this worker was immediately isolated.

Two further cases were reported on the 18th August and another on the 25th August. Both cases reported on the 18th had been obtaining the infected milk but the case notified on the 25th appeared to be an isolated case having no direct connection with the milk supply.

At the time great concern was felt over the fact that the carrier had been accommodated in a house provided with a pail closet, the house being situated in a thickly populated part of the town. However, the weather was cold, as a result the fly population was small and fortunately, no cases were reported.

Subsequently, the Council were able to provide the 'carrier' with a cottage in an isolated part of the district and the sanitation at the cottage is subjected to strict supervision.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1948.

1. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out in 1948:-

Public Health Acts: Nuisances	57
Housing Acts: Disrepair	163
Housing Acts: Overcrowding	28
Cowsheds	84
Dairies	126
Slaughterhouses	328
Knackers Yards	31
Bakchouses	19
Fried Fish Shops	15
Food Preparing Premises	104
Other Food Shops and Stores	22
Factories and Workshops	53
Infectious Diseases	177
Vermineous Premises (inc. Rats and Mice)	78
Piggeries	6
Refuse Accommodation	36
Unhabitable Dwellings	24
Sanitary Conveniences	32
Water Supplies	15
Drain Inspections	89
Miscellaneous, interviews and meetings.	457
Civil Building Control.	152
	<u>2,096</u>

The following table shows defects found and remedied during the year by action under the Public Health & Housing Acts:-

	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>	<u>Outstanding at end of 1948</u>
<u>Drainage</u>			
Choked drains	5	5	-
Defective drains	3	3	-
Insufficient drainage	5	5	-
Drainage polluting dykes	3	3	-
Cesspools overflowing	38	38	-
Cesspools, defective construction	1	1	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>			
Defective closets, structure	6	6	-
Defective sanitary pails	4	4	-
<u>Other Nuisances</u>			
Improper disposal of waste water	1	1	-
Accumulations of refuse	3	3	-
<u>Vermineous Infestations</u>			
Rats and Mice	54	54	-
Vermin	3	3	-
<u>Housing Defects</u>			
Defective roofs	26	23	3
walls	12	11	1
eavespouts	1	1	-
plasterwork	12	11	1
washing accommodation	5	5	-
doors and frames	3	2	1
windows and woodwork	3	2	1
stoves and fire-places	15	13	2

	Defects found	Defects remedied	Outstanding at end of 1948
Housing defects continued.			
Defective floors	11	8	3
stairs	1	1	-
Insufficient or defective refuse accommodation	8	8	-
Dampness	5	5	-
Paved Areas	6	6	-
	234	222	12

II. HOUSING.

During the year thirty-four houses were completed by the Council and four private houses under licences granted by the Council. Fourteen licences were issued during the year for the erection of private houses, eleven for owner-occupation and three for letting.

One hundred and thirteen licences were issued for housing work to the value of six thousand, nine hundred and fifty-three pounds and sixty-four for non-housing work to the value of two thousand, five hundred and seventy-one pounds.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no change in the circumstances of the district during the year. The following is the information requested in the Ministry of Health's Circular 49/45.

- (i) Whether the water supply of the area and of its parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. - Yes.
- (ii) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the water, and the results of any analysis. - No official samples have been taken on behalf of the Council; the water is known to be examined at regular intervals on behalf of the Water Company.
- (iii) The position as to contamination by lead. - The water is hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) Action as to contamination. - There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- (v) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of population supplied from public water mains. -
 - (a) Direct to houses 90%
 - (b) By means of standpipes 10%

IV. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

(a) Meat. The number of animals killed during the year at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses in the town was as follows:- 164 Cows; 754 Other Bovines; 266 Calves; 1,236 Sheep; 243 Pigs; Total 2,663. This is a decrease on the figure for 1947 when the corresponding number was 3,095.

Representations by the Council to the Ministry of Food (Meat & Livestock Division) failed to secure satisfactory arrangements during 1948 for the storage of condemned meat. However, I am pleased to report that at the time of making this

report, work is in progress at City Road Slaughterhouse and it is hoped that this matter will receive attention at the Burrowmoor Road Slaughterhouse in the near future.

Condemnations during the year included the following whole carcasses:- 14 Cows; 7 Other Bovines; 5 Calves; 6 Sheep; 19 Pigs; Total 51, together with a quantity of offals and parts of carcasses bringing the total weight of meat condemned up to 15 tons, 2 cwts., 1 qr., 17½ lbs.

	Cows	Other Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
No. of animals killed	164	754	266	1,236	243	2,663
Condemnations: Tuberculosis Whole carcasses	7	4	2	-	2	15
Part carcasses and/or organs	95	149	-	-	8	252
% of animals affected with Tuberculosis	40.85	15.5	.75	-	4.11	-
Condemnations: Other Causes Whole carcasses	7	3	3	6	18	37
Part carcasses and/or organs	71	345	-	36	13	469
% of animals affected with Other Diseases	15.85	2.38	1.12	.32	6.17	-

(b) Other Foods. Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other foodstuffs, and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

(i) Tinned Goods. No. of Tins. Weight, lbs.

Meat	21	44
Fish	28	20¼
Vegetables	118	355½
Milk	145	138¼
Jam	12	50
Fruit	28	35½
	<u>352</u>	<u>644</u>

(ii) Miscellaneous. Weight, lbs.

Sultanas	1½
Prunes	2½
Bacon	12¼
Margarine	1½
Flour	6
Corn Flakes	1½
Vita Wheat	4
Sausage Meat	6
Kippers	94
Smoked cod	42
Smoked bacon	24
Carre de L'Est	20¾
Eggs (26)	

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act required.

V. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - KNACKERS YARD.

During the year the owner of a knackers yard situated in the area was successfully prosecuted by the Ministry of Food on evidence supplied by the Council for failing to comply with the requirements of the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1947.

VI. MILK AND DAIRIES.

At the end of the year, seventeen persons were registered as producers of milk in the district. Fourteen producers dispose of their milk wholesale and three are retail purveyors.

One licence to produce "Accredited" milk and seven to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk were in force in the district at the end of the year.

One dairyman in the town holds a licence for a pasteurising plant, and is handling a large proportion of the milk from local farms. The 'holder' method of pasteurisation is employed. This dairy has an officially approved laboratory under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, and all incoming milk is tested for keeping quality before heat treatment.

Pasteurised milk is also retailed in the district from two other sources outside the area.

Milk Samples: During the year milk samples were examined by the Medical Research Council, Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge.

(a) The following is a summary of the reports on non-designated milk samples taken during the year:-

No. of samples taken.	Satisfied both tests.	Satisfied coliform but not methylene blue.	Satisfied methylene blue but not coliform.	Failed both tests.
37	22	1	9	5

(b) Biological Examination. Fifteen samples of milk were taken for biological examination for the detection of tubercle bacilli. There was no evidence of Tuberculosis on post mortem examination of any of the inoculated guinea pigs.

(c) Pasteurised milk. Samples were also taken during the year of Pasteurised milk being sold in the district, for examination in accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1946. The following table shows the results:-

No. of samples taken.	Satisfied both tests.	Satisfied methylene blue but not phosphatase.	Satisfied methylene blue phosphatase but not methylene blue.	Failed both tests.
30	7	3	17	3

VII. ICE-CREAM - BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Ten samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and examined by the methylene blue test adapted for ice-cream. The provisional grading of the samples was as follows:-

Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.	Total
2	3	5	--	10

VIII. RATS AND MICE.

One operator is engaged on this work on a part-time basis. Fifty-four minor infestations were dealt with during the year with satisfactory results.

IX. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Six informal notices were served during the year with regard to sanitary accommodation not in accordance with the Order; two cases were still outstanding at the end of the year.

X. TABLE OF NOTICES SERVED DURING 1948.

	<u>Served during</u> <u>1948.</u>	<u>Complied with</u> <u>by 31.12.48.</u>
Public Health & Housing Acts		
Verbal	14	14
Letter	42	34
Food & Drugs Act, 1938		
Verbal	3	3
Letter	2	2
Milk & Dairies Orders		
Verbal	10	10
Meat Regulations, 1924		
Letter	1	1
Factories Act, 1937		
Verbal	4	4
Letter	6	4
Other Acts & Orders		
Verbal	3	3
Letter	1	1
	<u>86</u>	<u>76</u>

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the members of the Council, and my colleagues on the staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R.C.L. WILLIAMS,

Sanitary Inspector.

June 1949.

